

MARCH 2009
Volume 5, Issue 3
Copyright RCT

From The Editor...

IN THIS ISSUE
PAGE 2: Meeting Minutes.
PAGE 10: VE Report.
PAGE 11: Birthdays
PAGE 12 N7OMS
PAGE 13: Sparky
PAGE 16: Hints

March is certainly coming in like a LION! Let's hope that it really does leave like a lamb. Don't let the weird weather fool you: it still no time to garden!

However, March is a great contest month. The best place to check out your station is on the air during March. For details on the various contests go to: <http://www.hornucopia.com/contestcal/> This is the WA7BMN site that has

all the good information on contests.

After this month, things cool down a bit on the contest front, but don't forget...



Will be here before you know it!

73, Gary WG7X

Radio Club of Tacoma

BAORD MEETING 4 February, 2009

The 4 February 2009 board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Joe Lester – K7AWJ

Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW

Board Member: Gary McAdams – WG7X

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 15 names on the attendance roster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Minutes from the 7 January 2009 board meeting were approved as coordinated/corrected by e-mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements; the Post Office Box renewal; several insurance renewals; our Mike and Key Hamfest 2009 registration; and registration for the second of our power generator trailers. We also received an invitation to register for the Washington State University Grantsmanship training program for \$895.00.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ provided the monthly financial report including income of \$880.14 and expenses of \$ 1432.25 and a Checking account balance of \$4,270.00. *A copy of the Monthly financial statement is attached to the original copy of the minutes..*

ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY: Jill K7JIL noted that Al K7HW has been suffering from bronchitis for several weeks, and announced the Club's plan to recognize Marian Gurley's passing by celebrating what would have been her 89th birthday with a March 14th Pot Luck at 5 pm at the Clubhouse.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick KE7EMW reports our current membership stands at # 322, and that the annual membership renewal packages have

Logger's Bark March, 2009

been mailed and even some already returned.
VE Report: John AC7WW reported on the recent Pierce County DEM VE Session.

The Radio Club of Tacoma VE Team administered Amateur Radio examinations following a Technician Class at the Pierce County Department of Emergency Management January 31, 2009. The twenty seven candidates passed twenty-four Element two exams and two Element three exams. Forty-eight exams were graded.

Twenty-four new Technician class Amateurs joined the ranks of the Amateur Radio Service and two candidates upgraded to General Class. A fourteen year old young lady and an eighty-four year old retired WWII veteran passed the Technician Exam. One candidate failed to get a license.

The next scheduled testing session is Tuesday February 10th, 2009.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| Harry, W7HSA | Steve, AD7VL |
| Al, AC7BU | Jon, AD7AW |
| Rich, KK7VH | Bud, KE7GB |
| Jim, N7RHX | Stephen, AD7AB |
| Frank, AC7JY | Jill, K7JIL |
| Roger, WA7ANJ | |

Life Membership Issue: Rick KE7EMW presented a request for Life membership for two family members which posed a question of interpretation of the Life Membership and Family Membership rules from the Bylaws. After careful consideration and discussion, the Board made the following interpretation:

From the Bylaws:

LIFE MEMBERSHIP. Life membership is available to full or associate members upon payment of twenty (20) times the full annual membership fees in effect at the time of the application. Life membership fees may be paid in four semi-annual installments. A member paying

Radio Club of Tacoma

installments, who is unable to complete full payment, shall be considered paid for the number of years membership already paid. Partial life membership payments will be non-refundable. Life membership for a licensed family member shall be twenty times the annual family membership dues when accompanied with a life membership.

The Board's interpretation of the current wording in the bylaws provides for no distinction between spouse and non-spouse. There are several requirements that must be met for a family member to receive a LIFETIME FAMILY membership.

Requirements for regular FAMILY membership.

1 The head of house, must hold some form of a FULL membership in the RCT.

2 The family member seeking Life Membership must hold a current amateur radio operator's license.

3 The family member seeking Life Membership must be a legal dependant of the Full Member head-of-house.

4 The family member seeking Life Membership must reside at the same address as the FULL-member head of house.

To qualify for the reduced, family rate, The family member seeking Life Membership must meet the above criteria at the time of his application for Life Membership. The cost of a LIFETIME Membership at the reduced FAMILY rate is 20 times the current Family rate (for a total of \$300.)

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Clubhouse Furnace: Frank AC7JY reported on his research into the clubhouse furnace. He has received several bids, running from \$1,200 to \$1,900. One of the bidders felt the repair of two of the four failed heating elements was "complicated" and recommended replacement instead. One bid included a programmable thermostat. The board discussed the issue and requested written, itemized estimates to facilitate side by side comparison, including the

Logger's Bark March, 2009

brand name and capacity information for each bid.

Basement Flooding: Frank AC7JY also announced the availability of a "dirty water" sump pump which can be used in case the basement floods again.

Steve Blacksten AD7VL provided the results of his request for excavating and installing downspout drains on both sides of the house to the front of the property. Those bids came in at: *Copies of the estimates/bids are attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

- Aloisio Plumbing; trench and backfill (2) lines \$ 2,400.00; trench, pipe and backfill (2) lines \$ 3,600.00:

- Robs Sprinkler Service and Installation Inc; trench, pipe and backfill; to sidewalk \$ 1,035.00; trench, pipe and backfill under sidewalk \$1,235.00

- Morning Rain Irrigation and Landscaping; to install 4" ADS connected to downspouts two lines running to near front sidewalk \$ 860.00.

A fourth bidder (At Your Service Plumbing) responded with a "no bid"

The consensus of the board was that the bids were too high.

Property Management: Larry KD4VOM reports little progress due to illness and absence of key inventory folks.

We are also in receipt of an equipment property insurance list from Marsh Affinity Group Services, our equipment insurer, which notes that the replacement cost value total does not match our currently insured value, and requests our review and their notification of any needed changes.

Salmon Run Project List: Rick KE7EMW reports a summary of potential projects currently under discussion for possible funding using the 2008 Salmon Run Pledge money.

Here is a preliminary list of candidates:

1. Alarm System (Rich, Rick)
2. Furnace repair (Al, Larry & Rich)
3. Security lights
4. Blinds on club windows (Pat, Chuck)
5. Lawn mower
6. Steep front yard
7. Door seals (Rich, Al)
8. Ground system "Ground Ring"

Radio Club of Tacoma

9. Tower repair
10. Tower systems repair
11. Rain water going under house
12. Carpet on the second floor, at the top of the stairs fixed (Rich)
13. Rope to replace ropes on all club antenna's (Al)
14. 147.28 Repeater move, Healiac connectors, tower hardware, tower grounding, coax bridge, coax entrance panel, battery power system. I could go on (Nick)

There was a brief discussion which included the furnace issue, basement flooding; the lawn/lawnmower/landscape issue and a few others. Jill K7JIL will contact Al N7OMS to see if we can get to a recommended list for board consideration by the March Board Meeting.

The Golf Ball Antenna Launcher: Rick KE7EMW revisited the offer to donate a Golf Ball Launcher to the Club by Bill AD7QI and Al AC7BU. New information reveals that the materials cost for the launcher were expected to be paid by the club and would have come to a total of over \$200.00. After discussion of the costs and potential liability issues, the Board elected to respectfully decline AD7QI and AD7BU's offer.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mike and Key Fest: Larry KD4VOM reports we have received our Club table reservation for this year's Mike and Key Fest. We need volunteers to cover the table. Harry W7HSA and Steve AD7VL volunteered to take on the task. More are needed to spell off the folks at our club table.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

IRT Team: Larry KD7VOM reports that the IRT team appointments have been made, and Bank Account established. There remain a few details to be completed to get the new system working.

Communications Engineering: Larry KD4VOM and Rick KE7EMW report that Nick K7MO is planning additional work on the 147.28 repeater this weekend and there may be down periods. It is expected that this work will return our IRLP operation to normal.

The HF room logging computer hard drive has been removed and is in the process of being setup in another computer.

Logger's Bark March, 2009

Communications Operations: HF Station Management: The Board agreed to a revision of the HF Station Management to a team concept. Gary McAdams WG7X has agreed to join this group along with Lynn K7OKS. Part of the work includes returning to a system of operator certification, and HF station configuration planning. Jill K7JIL appointed Gary WG7X and Lynn K7OKS to the team.

The Ten Tec system is in need of repair. Gary WG7X offered to handle the packing, shipping and management of returning the Ten Tec to the manufacturer for examination and repair.

Motion: A motion was made, seconded and passed to authorize the expenditure of up to \$ 400.00 for repairing the Ten Tec, with Gary WG7X to exercise his best judgment in managing the project.

Tube Inventory: Al N7OMS has established 12 February for the sorting and inventorying of the clubs large tube collection. Al requested a startup fund of \$ 50.00 for file boxes and paper sacks. Al is inviting all who are interested in helping with this project to join them on 12 February. *A copy of Al N7OMS' project proposal is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

Motion: A motion was made, seconded and approved to authorize the expenditure of up to \$50.00 by the Tube Project team in support of this inventory project.

Annual Membership Renewal Process Report: Rick KE7EMW provided a comprehensive and detailed report and analysis of the Club's annual renewal process and products. This year's net cost for printing, labels, and mailing to 321 members came to \$ 213.49. *A copy of the full 2009 Membership Renewal analysis is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

Personal Issue: A member present offered a document addressing an issue between him and another club member. The Board recommended that the member resolve the issue directly with the other member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

General Class: KRTW has scheduled a General Licensing Class which begins 2 March through 13 April on Monday evenings at the Clubhouse.

FYBO: Rich KR7W has also announced this year's annual Freeze Your Buns Off affair air at the Point Defiance Owen's Beach shelter, beginning at 9:00 am.

BARK Printing: Steve ADTVL provided a report for Quickprint, for the newsletter: Quickprint's pricing would be \$ 72.00 for 12 sheets; front and back coming to six cents a page.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm.

BOARD MEETING

4 March, 2009

The 4 March 2009 board meeting was held at the Radio Club of Tacoma club house. Vice President Rick Rose KE7EMW called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

Officers and board members present:

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Joe Lester – K7AWI

Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW

Board Member: Gary McAdams – WG7X

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7TY

Board Member:: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 9 names on the attendance roster.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS:

Minutes from the 4 February 2006 board meeting were approved as coordinated/corrected by e-mail.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson -
KD4VOM

Correspondence: Larry reported the usual utility bills and bank statements. In addition our annual Property and Personal Tax bills have come, as well as several pieces of correspondence on our insurance policies. We also received notice from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources of their scheduled inspection of our repeater installation at the Crawford Mountain site. Nick K7MO is arranging to handle that visit.

Nick K7MO asked if we still had the second phone line. We do, and Nick said to cancel it because it's no longer required.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ presented the monthly financial report. As our annual membership renewals come in, the checking account balance has increased to \$7,698.83. There was a brief discussion of the security of our Principal Fund's Money Market account. The Board may consider relocating the

Money Market account to facilitate future transfers between our checking and investment accounts if the need arises. *A copy of the Monthly financial statement is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

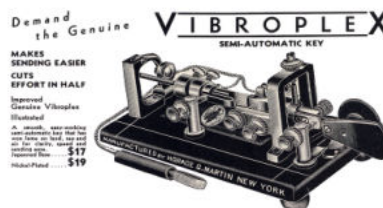
ILLNESS AND SILENT KEY: President Jill K7JIL was unable to attend tonight's meeting due to illness. Bud K7BUD's XYL is also under a doctor's care. Steve Kinko WA2LKI, past member's passing was mentioned and Steve may have had some club equipment.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick KE7EMW reports the continuing receipt of annual membership renewals. As of today our count stands at 236 and should all remaining 98 pending members renew, the count will be 334.

Hamfest: Larry KD4VOM provided a brief status report on this year's Hamfest plans. The Bethel Jr. High site has been reserved, we have ARRL Sanction and this year's flyers were distributed by Bob AD7LJ at an Oregon Hamfest. Flyers need to be folded in time for this coming Saturday's Mike and Key Hamfest. Bob AD7LJ volunteered to assist Rick KE7EMW tomorrow to get them ready. We are also looking for volunteers to greet the Mike and Key attendees at the gate to hand out flyers. Rick KE7EMW will send an e-mail notice to solicit help. Al K7HW reports that the Hamfest tables have been ordered. Larry KD4VOM handed out a Hamfest task and volunteer listing to solicit help identifying folks to help with this year's Hamfest.

Repeater Report: Nick K7MO provided a summary report on recent repeater work including setting levels, adjusting the frequency and returning the 440 repeater to operation. Nick anticipates getting the IRLP operating again this weekend, but still needs some cabling and connectors before the current 2 meter system can reach its final location downstairs. There was a general discussion of repeater features and possible settings which would permit improved control in case of repeater abuse or misuse.



UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Furnace: Frank AC7JY reviewed the previous furnace replacement estimates, and tabled an offer for Frank AC7JY and Al K7HW to develop a plan and costs to install a replacement furnace and ducting using club personnel and resources. **A motion was made, seconded and passed; to authorize Frank AC7JY and Al K7HW to develop a plan and costs for replacing the existing clubhouse furnace and ducting to be presented to the Board for their review and action.** Frank argued that the summer months are coming which will decrease our exposure from a failed furnace, and allowing time to consider the options and costs. During the discussion various ideas and alternatives were discussed. Some preferred moving now to limit our exposure, and contracting the work with a licensed installer.

Lawn Maintenance: This issue was not discussed at the meeting

Salmon Run Project Selection: The project list provided last month was reviewed, and since the board does not yet have any plans or cost estimates, the board elected to address the Salmon Run Project list in increments by assigning relative priorities to the proposed list. The Board consensus was that the Furnace issue and the Alarm issue are first priorities. Frank AC7JY's proposal above begins to address the furnace issue, and Rick KE7EMW advised the board that he and Rick KR7W had agreed to develop a plan and costs for replacing the alarm system. The remaining items on the list will be addressed as the first priority items are resolved and funded. In the area of Communications Engineering which includes the repeaters, HF Station, towers, feed-lines and related systems Larry KD4VOM was asked to arrange a meeting of interested parties to identify, discuss, and develop recommended priorities and costs for presentation to the Board.

Equipment Loan Policy: Larry KD4VOM indicates competing priorities have temporarily slowed work on development of a club policy.

NEW BUSINESS:

Financial Accounts: Larry KD4VOM proposed two motions to provide documented authority required by Washington Mutual and Principal Funds for changing the signatories to several accounts. Authentication procedures have changed and these motions are required to satisfy the new WAMU requirements.

IRT Account:

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed: "The Board of Directors of the Radio Club of Tacoma designates the following for access and signature authority for the Radio Club of Tacoma's Internet Account # 03850000236703:

Joseph S. Lester

Patricia Wingerter

Chuck Kemmer

Rich Patrick.

Principal Money Market Account

Motion: It was moved, seconded and passed: "The Board of Directors of the Radio Club designates the following for access and signature authority for The Radio Club of Tacoma's Principal Funds Money Market Account # 10002278:

Richard (Larry) Watson

Joseph S Lester Jr.

W7DK 2 Meter Net Request: Member Davina Nolten KE7JQV has submitted a request for the Franciscan Health System, where she is Disaster Coordination Specialist, and member of the Medical Communications Team, to use the W7DK 2 meter 147.28 repeater monthly to test their amateur radio communications. Larry KD4VOM moved that we grant this request. The Board approved the request, and asked Larry KD4VOM to coordinate the Franciscan Health System use of our repeater with Davina to insure a mutual understanding of the agreement and acceptable procedures.

Spring Cleanup: The Board reviewed Al N7OMS' Spring Cleanup project list and agreed with the choice of brown paint for the trim. The first session is planned for this coming Monday, 9 March at 9:30. Repeated here is the cleanup list:

Outside chores:

- Remove pieces of roofing
- Last years cutting to dump
- Clean out planters on front porch
- Scrape the window sills and frames for painting
- Wire brush front hand rail and paint
- Sand back hand rail and paint
- Sand and paint back door and garage door (small)

Radio Club of Tacoma

Sand front door and see how it looks after. May not be able to varnish but may need to paint.

Weed eat the black berry bushes

Clean and haul away stuff from around garage

Bust up concrete attached to fence posts
Wash outside of windows.

Paint front of front steps white. (Safety)

Inside chores:

Wash insides of windows

Mop floors and wipe down class room tables

Vacuum carpets

Remove old monitors and VCRs

Remove trash and other items of no use to club

Kirkreit Picnic: Larry KD4VOM presented a review of last year's picnic budget and expense, and proposed a budget for this year's picnic of \$ 250.00 which should be offset in part by donations at the picnic. The Picnic is planned for 12 June at Spanaway Park, Shelter D, assuming that date can be reserved. Pierce County Parks have raised the fee for shelters, from \$75.00 to \$ 100.00 if reserved prior to 1 April. The Board approved a budget for the picnic of \$ 250.00.

RCT Historical Archive Documents: Larry KD4VOM reported on recent efforts by Doug AD7AV and Larry to determine how to preserve and protect our clubs historical archives and documents. A recent visit with Ed Nolan of the Washington State Historical Museum Research Center reveals what we had suspected; the environment in the clubhouse is very hostile to our old documents. We learned what we can to minimize the damage, but in the end more will be needed. Some steps have been taken to protect our historical documents and plans are underway to identify, document, create a database and scan/digitize our documents. Larry also suggested it may be a good time to consider a Club Historian to manage the process and care for our historical archives. Another task might be the creation of an annual narrative and eventually a writing of the history of the club.

Logger's Bark March, 2009

ANNOUNCEMENTS: - None

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

HF Operations: Gary WG7X has the HF station Ten Tec packaged and is ready to send it to the factory for inspection and repair.

Open House: The following volunteered to serve as Open House Duty Officers;

14 March Harry – W7HSA;

21 March Bob -- AD7LJ; and

28 March.-- Al K7HW/Larry KD4VOM

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 11 February 2009 MINUTES

The 11 February 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW

Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 57 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM reported the usual utility bills and bank statements, a few membership renewals and property insurance letters. *A copy of the correspondence log is attached to the original copy of the minutes.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Joe Lester K7AWJ Financial information is presented at each Board meeting and is available to members on request.

Radio Club of Tacoma

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that membership renewals are coming in and assuming that all current members renew, our membership total will have risen to 327.

VE Report: John Clarke AC7WW provided the following VE report:

February 10th, after the snow fell in Tacoma, thirteen candidates appeared at the Radio Club of Tacoma's clubhouse before nine Volunteer Examiners. Twenty-three elements were graded with thirteen being passed. Seven new Technicians joined the Amateur ranks, three candidates upgraded to General Class and one candidate got 100% on the element two and three. Unfortunately he missed one on the element four exam, however that did qualify him for the Extra Class license. Two candidates did not earn an initial license at this session.

The next scheduled testing session is Tuesday March 10th, 2009.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Steve, AD7VL Joe, W7RQ

Al, AC7BU Jon, AD7AW

Jim, N7RHX Bob, AD7LJ

Mike, AD7TH Roger, WA7ANJ

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Repeater Maintenance: Rick KE7EMW reports that Nick K7MO continues to work on the 2 meter 147.28 repeater and he expects to have the repeater out of service for short periods this Thursday and again on the weekend. The 440 repeater is also expected to return to service by Sunday.

Marian Gurley's Celebration: Jill K7JIL reminded all that the club is planning a potluck celebration of what would have been Marian's 89th birthday, for her long support and contributions to the club. The Potluck will be on 14 March at 5:30 at the clubhouse, donations to support the event can be given to Rick KE7EMW.

Radio Active Outing: Steve AD7VL continues to plan the club outing at Westport's American Sunset RV this coming 10, 11, and 12 April. Flyers were included in all the renewal packages and were available at the reception table.

Logger's Bark March, 2009

General Class: Rich KR7W is hosting a General License Class from 2 March through 13 April. Monday night classes will run from 6:30 to 9:30pm. More information is available at the W7DK.org website.

RCT 2 Meter Net Controller: Bud K7BUD is still in need of another Tuesday night net controller. His number is in the book.

Logger's Bark: Jill K7JIL encouraged the membership to download and enjoy the outstanding club newsletter edited by Gary WG7X...

Mike and Key Hamfest: Jill K7JIL encouraged folks to attend the large Mike and Key Hamfest coming up on March 7th. Harry W7HSA and Steve AD7VL will be managing our Club table and can use some help to sit the table occasionally. If you can drop by and cover our table for a bit to let them do some boat anchor hunting.

PROGRAM: Bill AD7QI presented tonight's Introduction to TLTs, Baluns and UnUns.

Able assisted by Ian KE7TEV, Bill provided an in-depth analysis of the construction connections, uses and performance of various kinds of "Transmission Line Transformers". With handouts, great visual aids, neon lights, fluorescent lights and a regular old incandescent light bulb Bill demonstrated the use of these useful tools to promote better propagation from our antenna systems. This presentation was a comprehensive review that had many scratching their heads and others going away with a load of useful information for future applications.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Salmon Run: Rich KR7W was pleased to announce that the WW7LW club came in first in last year's Salmon Run roving mobile category...

FYBO: Rich KR7W thanked those who braved the cold weather to attend and participate in this year's annual QRP CW and Phone contest. Contacts on CW were made as far away as Maine, and for SSB, to New Jersey, Delaware and Florida...

Sunday Night 10 Meter Net: Jill K7JIL reminded all of the weekly 10 Meter net and encouraged folks to check in with Lynn K7OKS.

DOOR PRIZES: Bob, K7IND picked up a nifty pencil torch and Casey WY7V an engraving tool and soldering iron.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55

Radio Club of Tacoma

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING 25 February 2009 MINUTES

The 25 February 2009 Monthly Membership meeting was held at the Pierce County Library Administration Building. . President Jill Palmer K7JIL called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Officers and board members present:

President: Jill Palmer – K7JIL

Vice President: Rick Rose – KE7EMW

Secretary: Larry Watson -- KD4VOM

Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ

Board Member: Frank Palmer – AC7JY

Board Member: Al Burleson – K7HW

Board Member: Harry Adams – W7HSA

A sign in sheet with the names of members and guests is attached. There were 45 names on the attendance roster.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Was led by President Jill K7JIL

INTRODUCTIONS:

Self introductions were completed and guests welcomed.

ILLNESS OR SILENT KEY:

A recent posting to the W7DK Yahoo E-Group indicating that Steve Klinko WB2LKI had become a Silent Key in January of this year. Thus far we have been unable to confirm that report.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Larry Watson – KD4VOM

Correspondence & Calendar: Larry reports the usual utility bills and bank statements along with our annual real and personal property tax statements and a notice that the State Department of Natural Resources is scheduling a March inspection of our repeater installation at Crawford Mountain. There were several FYBO special event QSL cards which Rich KR7W circulated to the membership.

Logger's Bark March, 2009

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Membership: Rick Rose KE7EMW reports that we have 194 renewals already received and that if the remaining 127 renewals come in, added to the new members and reinstatements that have come in since the first of the year, the membership count will stand at 333. Rick also passed out membership receipts and cards to those present.

Mike and Key: Harry W7HSA reminded all that we need folks to sign up to help cover our Club table at the Mike and Key Hamfest coming up on March 7th. Harry has a sign up sheet at the reception desk.

VE Report: John AC7WW reports that on Valentine's Day, three VE's gathered at the LDS Church in Gig Harbor to administer licensing test to seventeen candidates. Twenty-six elements were graded with eighteen being passed. Sixteen new Technicians joined the amateur ranks and one candidate upgraded from Technician to Amateur Extra.

Thanks to VE's Steve AD7VL and Bud KE7GB

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

RCT 2 Meter Net: Bud Mitze K7BUD continues to search for a Tuesday Night 2 Meter net controller. If you are interested contact Bud, his info is in the Club roster.

General Class: Rich Patrick KR7W's General Class starts this coming Monday, the 2nd at 6:30 pm and will run through 13 April every Monday evening from 6:30 to 9:30. Check the W7DK.org website for information.

RCT Lawn care: Jill K7JIL asked the membership to volunteer to help set up a regular program for maintaining the Clubhouse grounds and yard.

Marian Gurley's Birthday: Jill K7JIL reminded all that the birthday celebration for Marian Gurley is planned for 5:30 pm on 14 March at the Clubhouse. This potluck is also seeking contributions to offset the expenses – see Rick KE7EMW if you can contribute. Roger KE7EMV has volunteered to provide a cooked turkey for the occasion as we celebrate the contributions Marian made to Worth and the Club over the years.

Radio Club of Tacoma

Radio Active Outing: Jill reminded the members of Steve Blacksten AD7VL's planned Club outing to the Westport American Sunset RV park on 10, 11, 12 April. Flyers are available and Steve notes that Razor Clam Digging season will be open and 3 day licenses can be purchased.

The KR7W Hamfest Survival Guide: Rich KR7W reports that he has provided his must-read Hamfest Survival Guide on the W7DK website... Rich's Guide is a useful read, especially for the first time attendees.

PROGRAM: Ken Gibson N7ELF introduced Clay Freinwald K7CR who presented an outstanding program on the national **Emergency Alert System**.

Clay, who chairs the Washington State EAS Committee, has been working with this system at every level from local to national for the last 13 years. Clay's comprehensive presentation provided a detailed description of the origination, development and purposes of this national warning system which was originally established to permit the President to speak to the people in the event of an extreme emergency. It has since grown and developed into an integrated system which incorporates local, regional and national dissemination of critical information. Clay described the early years, how the system is configured today, and ongoing efforts to develop the next generation system which will harness new technology to provide more sophisticated and effective use of this vital capability.

TUNING AND TRAFFIC:

Lynn K7OKS: reports 17 meter DX contacts with an Island entity operating on 100 watts and a plain dipole:

Bill AD7QI: reports a 17 meter contact with the Solomon Islands as well.

DOOR PRIZE: A grab bag of goodies door prize donated by Leonard KA7NWF was won by Ray Brassard -KE7BZD

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

Logger's Bark March, 2009

VE REPORT(S) John AC7WW

February 10th, after the snow fell in Tacoma, thirteen candidates appeared at the Radio Club of Tacoma's clubhouse before nine Volunteer Examiners. Twenty-three elements were graded with thirteen being passed. Seven new Technicians joined the Amateur ranks, three candidates upgraded to General Class and one candidate got 100% on the element two and three. Unfortunately he missed one on the element four exam, however that did qualify him for the Extra Class license. Two candidates did not earn an initial license at this session.

The next scheduled testing session is Tuesday March 10th, 2009.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Steve, AD7VL
Al, AC7BU
Jim, N7RHX
Mike, AD7TH

Joe, W7RO
Jon, AD7AW
Bob, AD7LJ
Roger, WA7ANJ

Valentine day, Saturday February 14th three VE's gathered at the LDS church in Gig Harbor to administer amateur licensing tests to seventeen candidates. Twenty-six elements were graded with eighteen being passed. Sixteen new Technicians joined the amateur ranks and one candidate upgraded from Technician to Amateur Extra.

Thanks to the following volunteer examiners for their time:

Steve, AD7VL
Bud, KE7GB

NOW!
THE SUPER BAND SPREAD RGH
Uses 1/2a7, 1/57, 1/58, 1/2a5, 1/80.
A powerful adjustable band spread superheterodyne kit on the famous gothic chassis. Tremendous power on all signals. Covers entire band from 11 meters up.
COMPLETE PARTS \$14.95
Including 8 S.W. Coils.
Dynamic Speaker \$2.50 extra.
MAIL ORDERS FILLED
THOR RADIO
CORP.
167 Greenwich St., New York City
SEND FOR FREE DATA

Happy Birthday

March

| Day | Name | Call | RCT Number |
|-----|------------------|--------|------------|
| 1 | Doug Reynolds | KE7YVA | 2392 |
| 1 | Karl Johnson | K7KHJ | 2390 |
| 6 | Robert Bosnyak | AD7WU | 2375 |
| 7 | Steve Terjeson | KC7AZW | 1687 |
| 8 | Link Jackman | N7CEO | 988 |
| 9 | Al Williams | K7PUC | 1845 |
| 10 | Dick Ohls | K7ITX | 546 |
| 11 | Michelle Baskett | WA7PVE | 672 |
| 12 | Eric Young | KA7ZFW | 2342 |
| 14 | Roy Ernsbarger | KA7X | 851 |
| 14 | Susan Schooler | KE7SPS | 2282 |
| 15 | Bob Heselberg | K7MXE | 461 |
| 15 | Joanne Souter | WA4KZQ | 1925 |
| 16 | Jerry Cemy | W7JC | 1354 |
| 17 | Frank Henshaw | K7VMG | 2317 |
| 17 | Jon Hamilton | AD7AW | 2209 |
| 17 | Patrick Kern | K7IBC | 2219 |
| 19 | Randy Thompson | AD7FF | 2162 |
| 21 | Al Carter | K5EAF | 1321 |
| 24 | Robert Nagley | N7AHR | 1039 |
| 25 | Mark Bamford | W7BRT | 2371 |
| 26 | Chuck Kemmer | AC7QN | 2088 |
| 26 | Morel Guyot | W6LIX | 1808 |
| 28 | Raymond Miller | KC7VEP | 2066 |

Volunteers... An in house white Paper AL N7OMS

Almost a hundred years ago a small group got together to share experiences and resources in their exploration of the new hobby of Radio. Radio was as much about mechanics as about electricity and sharing was a means of moving each other forward toward the goal of connecting with others of like mind. Some continued to further the club and others moved on but all must have been touched by their shared experience. In the course of time others joined and moved the club to the future that we find ourselves in at this time and place. We are a collection of all who volunteered before us.

When we moved to University Place from Graham it was my goal to get more involved in Ham Radio. The best way to do this seemed to be get more involved with the Radio Club of Tacoma. Like our founding members I hoped to further my skills with the help of others of like interests. Now seven years later my experience in Ham Radio has grown more than I thought possible.

It was not easy at first because I really didn't know anyone. Getting into the loop was difficult. Most people were willing to help. You just needed to know who could help with what? Who to ask was just part of the trouble, finding opportunities to learn from them was another. The key I found was to put yourself out there. By that I mean when projects need help, volunteer. You may think that you don't have any skills that would be needed. Over the years I have put chairs out, picked chairs up, made pancakes, held ropes, driven stakes, put up shelters, taken pictures, painted, sanded, hauled trash, changed light bulbs and a hundred other everyday things. During all that I was meeting other club members, asking questions and doing lots of Ham Radio.

Many of us have put in our time as workers and understand the principle of **we** will do this or **we** will do that. When the Boss says that **we** are going to do something most often no one questions it. In organizations that are run by volunteers when a person says "**we** should do," they look around find everyone has disappeared. If you say "I will do" then people will be more willing to see what is going to happen next.

The two biggest Radio Club events each year are Field Day and the Ham Fest. There are many other smaller doings each month but let's focus on the two biggies. The last full weekend in June is ARRL field day. That's an opportunity for Hams all over the U.S. to test their ability to get on the air in times of trouble. We gather at the Club house on Friday and load up generators, antennas and assorted other items to take to a nearby location. Then in a matter of a few hours we transform that site to Ham Radio nirvana. We have had as many as seven separate stations on the air over the Field Day weekend. That's lots of work for volunteers who are needed to assemble and then remove all that equipment. There are many good opportunities to learn more about Ham Radio and meet your fellow Club members.

Next is the Ham Fest that is going to be held at Bethel School on August 8th. This is a chance to meet with the public and to trade some of those treasures for other treasures. It is also one of our biggest fund raisers. Ham Fest is also about meeting many non radio club people. It is in our best interest to present a professional front to these potential club members. That means work and lots of it. It's very worthwhile as you get to meet other club members, the public and maybe pick up that little something that will lead you to another Ham Radio adventure.

So consider this your invitation to join us in moving the Club forward while enhancing your skills. After all that's why we're here! Check with Larry Watson or Rick Rose for Ham Fest opportunities Bob Purdom or Nick Winter for Field Day. Also, the Bark will have contacts for these and other events. So step up and grab on to help pull us into the next hundred years. It will be Ham Radio fun!

Dateline: March 2009

Sparky's "View from the Shack"

This and that around the club, and more...

Sparky's welcomes comments, ideas and letters to "The RCT View", but reserves the right to procrastinate, and generally ignore social engineering or cranky inputs. Editorial philosophy — While there occasionally may be reason and rhyme as we go along, the goal is to ramble through the many and varied activities of the Club and its members as we take another trip around the sun.

- Our Legacy...
- Spring cleanup time...
- Attaboys
- View from the Shack

Our Legacy

This month, Sparky takes a trip down memory lane, with the help of some of the many Radio Club of Tacoma historical photos and documents. As most of you know, the Club was formed in October of 1916

by a group of High School kids who had developed an interest in this "newfangled" technology called "Radio". The idea took root, and for over ninety years the Radio Club of Tacoma has continued to serve the greater Tacoma metropolitan area in many ways and forms. We, today owe a great debt to the long line of amateur radio enthusiasts who nurtured and expanded the Radio Club of Tacoma over these nine decades. To be sure it has had its ups and downs, but in the end it has endured and grown. For the most part our predecessors have managed to tuck away most of the history of our club for us to enjoy. Here's a glimpse of some of the photographic records Sparky has stumbled across.

Many of you may recognize the gent shown here at his shack. Doc Spike W7OS who was a prominent member of the club from the early days, although not a founding member. Doc's legacy lives on in the name of the Clubs annual inspirational award, first presented to Doc himself. Our historical Museum is also named for him, the Doc Spike W7OS Museum.



Here's a really old photo of one of the first member's Shack, If you look closely, you will see some of the same equipment in the photo which now resides in our museum collection. It's a photo of Norman J. Arndt 7AK's shack taken in 1915/16.



The photo of on the lower left is one of our current members, I wonder how many of you (other than the one in the photo can identify this current member?





Sparky doesn't know exactly when this photo was taken but it gives a new meaning to our planned "Spring Cleanup" now scheduled for March 9th. Over the years, it has always been the members who have stepped up to make things happen.

Future Sparky View's will continue to explore our rich history. If you are interested in joining a team dedicated to preserving and securing our history, contact the Secretary Larry Wat-

son KD4VOM. There is a movement afoot to organize a team to pour over our photographic and document archives to identify, inventory, document and scan them before the ravages of time and environment ultimately destroy them. Give Larry a call.

Spring Cleanup Time...

Sponsored by the irrepressible Al N7OMS, a Club Spring Cleanup is planned for March 9th. This will likely be the beginning of several sessions devoted to arresting the deterioration of our favorite clubhouse and restoring its health and appearance. First steps will include removing the trash and debris, and preparing the trim for painting. Inside and Outside work is scheduled.

Attaboys:

Sparky sends a well earned tip of the hat to Rich KR7W for stepping up to the critical need for a General Licensing Class. Rich's class kicked off on Monday, March 2nd and will run to April 13th. We're turning out Technicians at a historical rate, but somehow leaving many to die on the amateur radio vine. The General Class will help those with healthy ambitions, and add more dedicated folks to the amateur ranks, especially on the HF bands. Now that the CW "Barrier" is history, many who have quietly waited are now taking the opportunity to more fully explore this great hobby of ours.

Tubes, tubes, we've got tubes!!! In fact we have so many we haven't much room for anything else, once again, Al N7OMS steps up to the issue. Al has kicked off the great Tube Inventory Project,

whose purpose is to sort, identify, and test all those tubes we have squirreled away over the years. When we're done the hope is that we will save the ones we need or have historical value, and sell or auction off those we don't to raise operating funds, and finally to dispose of those of not value to anyone.





View from the Shack...

2008 lies well behind us, but 2010 looms large on the horizon. Planning is now underway for the many club activities we have come to enjoy and expect. The annual Kirkreit Picnic is in the early planning stages; 2009 Ham-fest planning began over a month ago for this year's August 8th event; and early rumblings of this year's Field Day have been heard and the ARRL has already generated this year's Logo...

A new addition to this year's RCT cal-

endar is the "Radio Active Outing", a field trip to Westport's American Lake RV park for the April 10, 11 and 12th to just have fun and have several operating sessions as well as visit the popular Pacific Ocean site... - See Steve AD7VL for more information



The Disclaimer...

These articles are intended to browse through recent activities and coming events of possible interest to the Radio Club of Tacoma members. It will of course by design and intent be informal and attempt to record some of the Club's activities that might otherwise go unnoticed.

Sparky

"He who hesitates, is probably right"

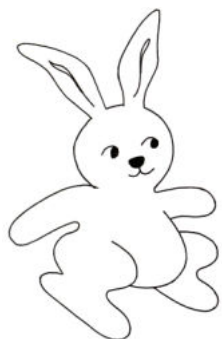


Hidden Transmitter (Bunny Hunting) Season is coming up on the calendar soon. The hidden transmitter operates on TWO Meters. I am planning to build some more transmitters to hide for interested club members to find at upcoming organized hunts. Think about the CQ Magazine sponsored hunt in May.

I build these transmitters out of old two meter hand held transceivers. So... I am looking for donations of old HTs that might or might not work... that you no longer use but cant bring yourself to throw away. It's the unit that you think you will never be able to get any cash for it at the swap meet... but because you've had it so long... and you just cant part with it.

Donate it to the Bunny Hunt and it just might be put to good use.

WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE



Old 2 Meter Hand Helds For Hidden Transmitter (Bunny Hunt) Activities



Don't be concerned if your old HT has a good battery or the push to talk button sticks or is broken. None of that matters to me... PL board inside? Doesn't matter.

If I receive some HTs... I will publish some photos of the transformation from old HTs into a hidden transmitter.

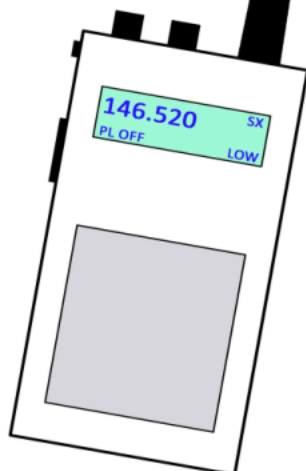
If you think you have what I am looking for... bring it to a club meeting or leave at the club house. If you don't frequent these activities... then please give me a call or an email.

253.274.8657...

webgeek@w7dk.org

And for you Joe... It was nice to see you at the M-K Hamfest and thanks for reading this far.

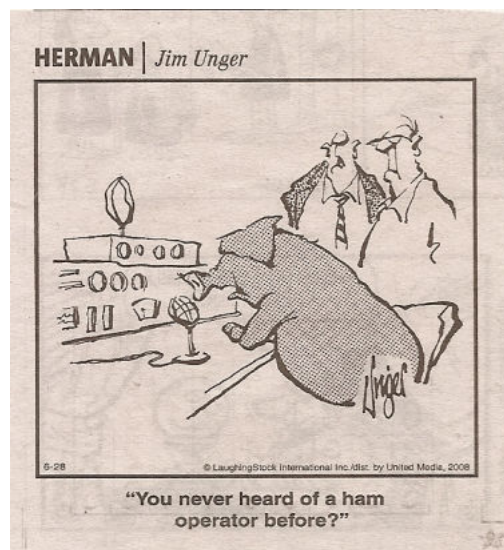
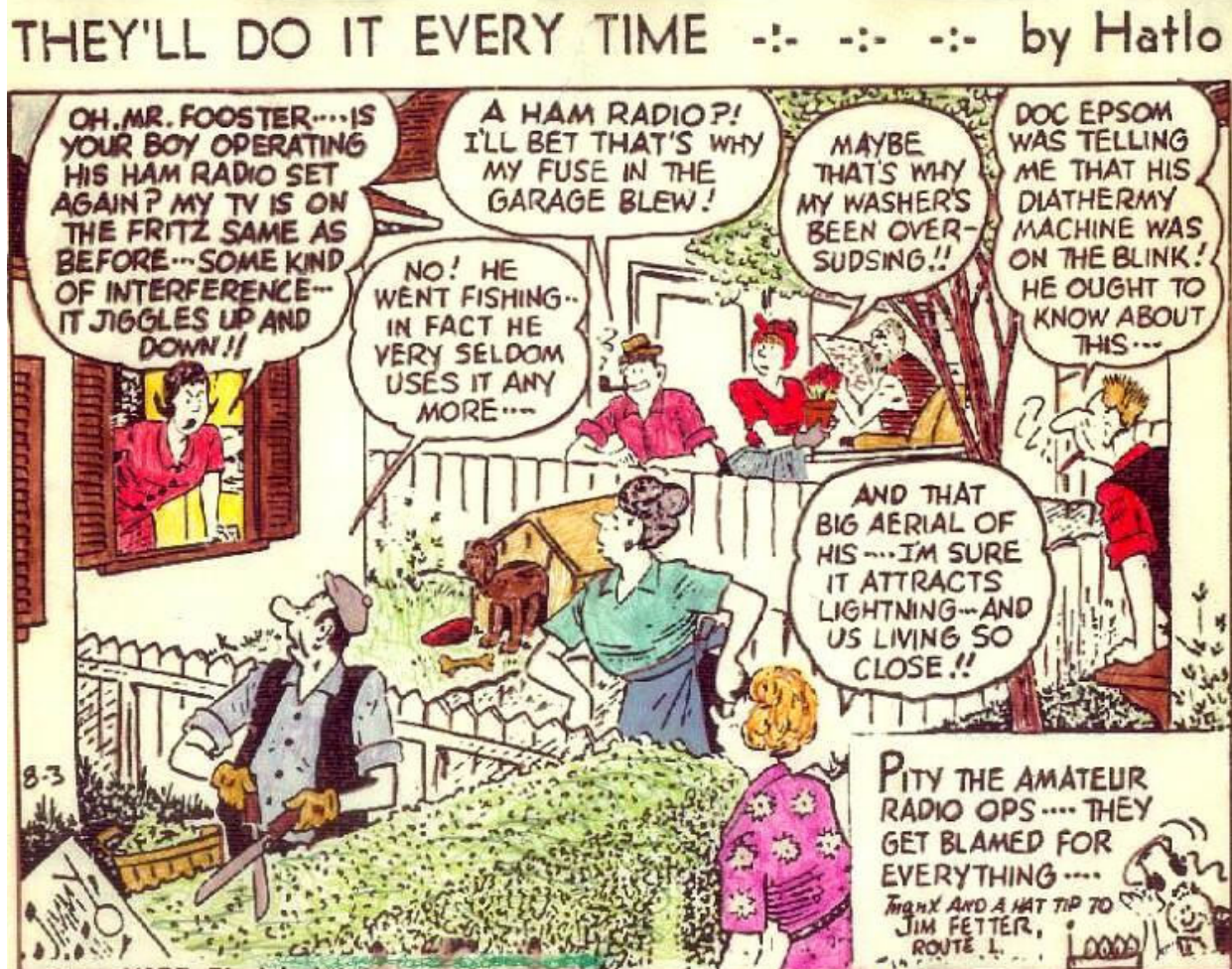
-30- Rich KR7W



And Now for something completely different...

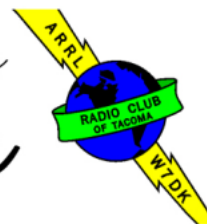
Contributed by: Rich KR7W

...And Gary WG7X





The Radio Club of Tacoma's
Logger's Bark



The Logger's Bark is the **OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE RADIO CLUB OF TACOMA**... and is published by W7DK Press, PO Box 11188, Tacoma, WA 98411. The Radio Club of Tacoma is a non-profit corporation as defined by law, and all proceeds will be used exclusively for charitable and educational purposes. The Radio Club of Tacoma's Club House is located at 1249 Washington St, Tacoma, WA 98411, phone: 253-759-2040.

Club Officers

President: Jill Palmer, K7JIL, 253-539-7772, hamtalker2@msn.com
 Vice Pres: Rick Rose, KE7EMW, 253-581-7673 rick-rose@comcast.net
 Secretary: Larry Watson, KD4VOM, royretreat@mailcan.com
 Treasurer: Joe Lester K7AWJ k7awj@arrrl.net

5 Board Members (listed in no particular order)

Al Burleson K7HW burleca@mashell.com
 Harry Adams W7HSA RCT@xemapsl.com
 Gary Kohtala K7EK gary.k7ek@gmail.com
 Gary McAdams, WG7X wg7x@arrrl.net
 Frank Palmer AC7JY ac7jy@msn.com

Logger's Bark Staff

Editor in Chief: "Stop the Presses!!" Gary McAdams, WG7X, thebark@comcast.net
 Printer/Publisher: "Start the Presses" John Clarke, AC7WW, 253-475-5854
 Reporters: The members of the Radio Club of Tacoma...
 Send articles to: thebark@comcast.net or The Bark, 11405 88th Ct SW, Lakewood, WA 98498

The Fine Print: The Logger's Bark is published once a month for the membership of The Radio Club of Tacoma or interested ham radio enthusiasts. The Bark is delivered by PDF file on the club's website: www.w7dk.org. If a condensed paper copy is needed... then let the Printer/Publisher listed above know.

ADVERTISE in the BARK: \$60.00 full page, \$30.00 half page, \$15.00 quarter page, \$5.00 business card size. These charges offset the publishing and USPS mailing costs.

Want / For Sale ads are free to members. The Logger's Bark does not verify or guarantee statements in the Want For Sale listings. Permission is granted to use any or all portions of articles published in The Loggers Bark if Credit line is included in the article.

Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) is \$30 per calendar year. \$25 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay \$15 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Fulltime students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are \$15 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for.. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5 Central Tacoma Packet: 144.970

Crawford Mountain (SE Thurston County): 147.380 + PL=103.5

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

The Loggers Bark

Radio Club of Tacoma, INC.

PO Box 11188

Tacoma, WA 98411

To RCT Member:



MARCH 2009 EVENTS

CLUB MEETINGS: Wednesdays March 11th and 25th at the Library Administration Building 112th and Waller Road. The club meets at 7:30 PM. Everyone is invited to attend.

Board Meeting: Wednesday March 4th, 7:00 PM at the RCT clubhouse. All members are/were welcome.

Bark Deadline: Last week-end of each month. Please submit articles by that time!

Support our club: Attend meetings, volunteer, Elmer!

Check into the weekly two meter net: Tuesdays at 7:30 PM on the club repeater on 147.280 MHz.

Check into the weekly 10 meter net: Sundays at 8:00 PM on 28.375 MHz.